BATMAN
461
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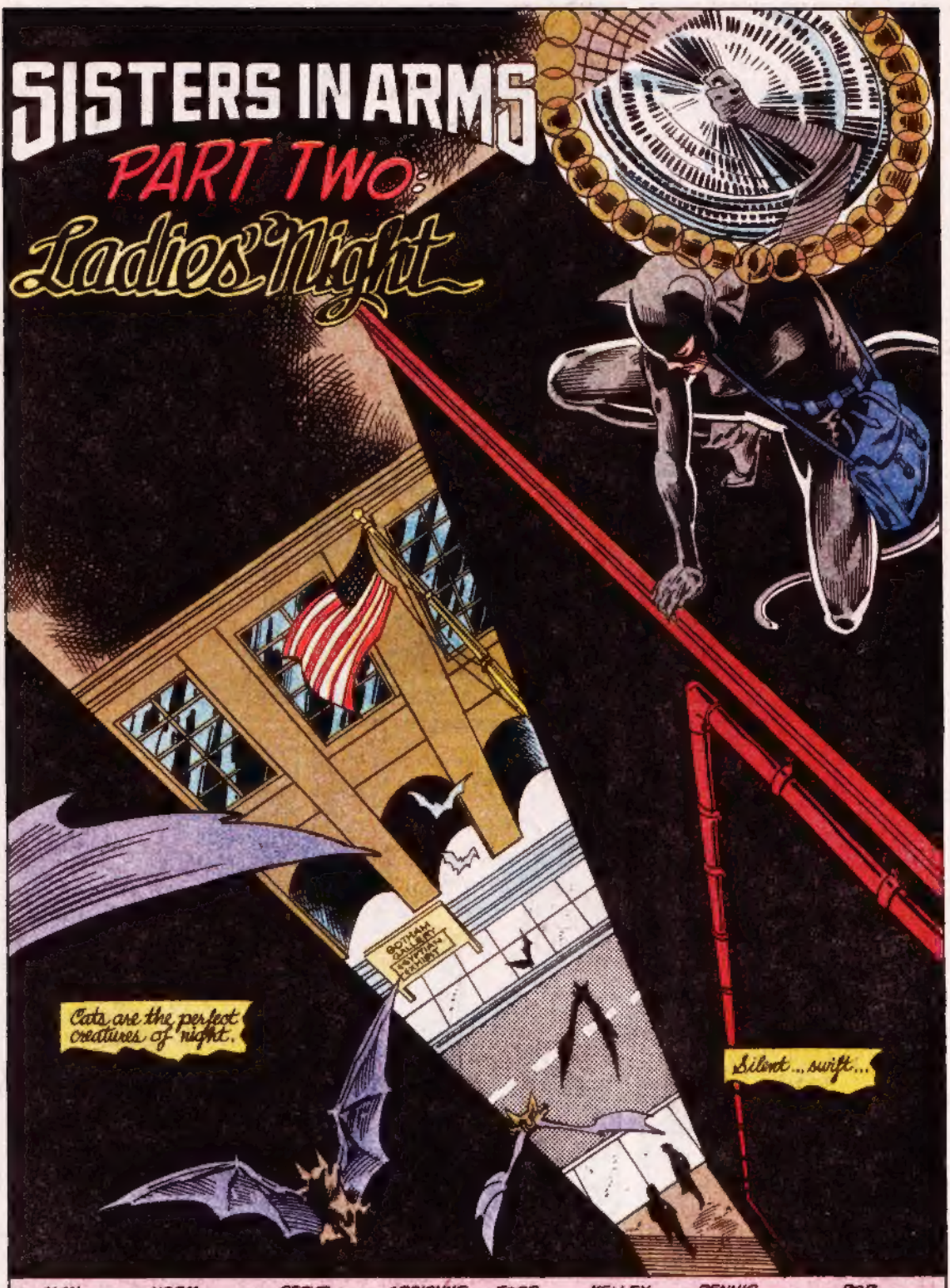
GRANT
BREYFOGLE
MITCHELL
ROUGHER
Once upon a time,
there were three women...



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...Deadly...
WH-WHW-HW-HW
WHIIIP
POK!
WAK!
THEY SHOULD BE OUT FOR LONG ENOUGH...!
KLIK
THIS IS SENSATIONAL! CATWOMAN ON A MAJOR JOB--AND I'M GETTING ALL OF IT ON FILM!
BUT SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT PAST THE SECURITY LONDIS HAS WAITING INSIDE.
I MIGHT AS WELL HANG AROUND AND GET THE WRAP-UP... WHEN THEY BRING HER OUT IN CUFFS!
WHO...?
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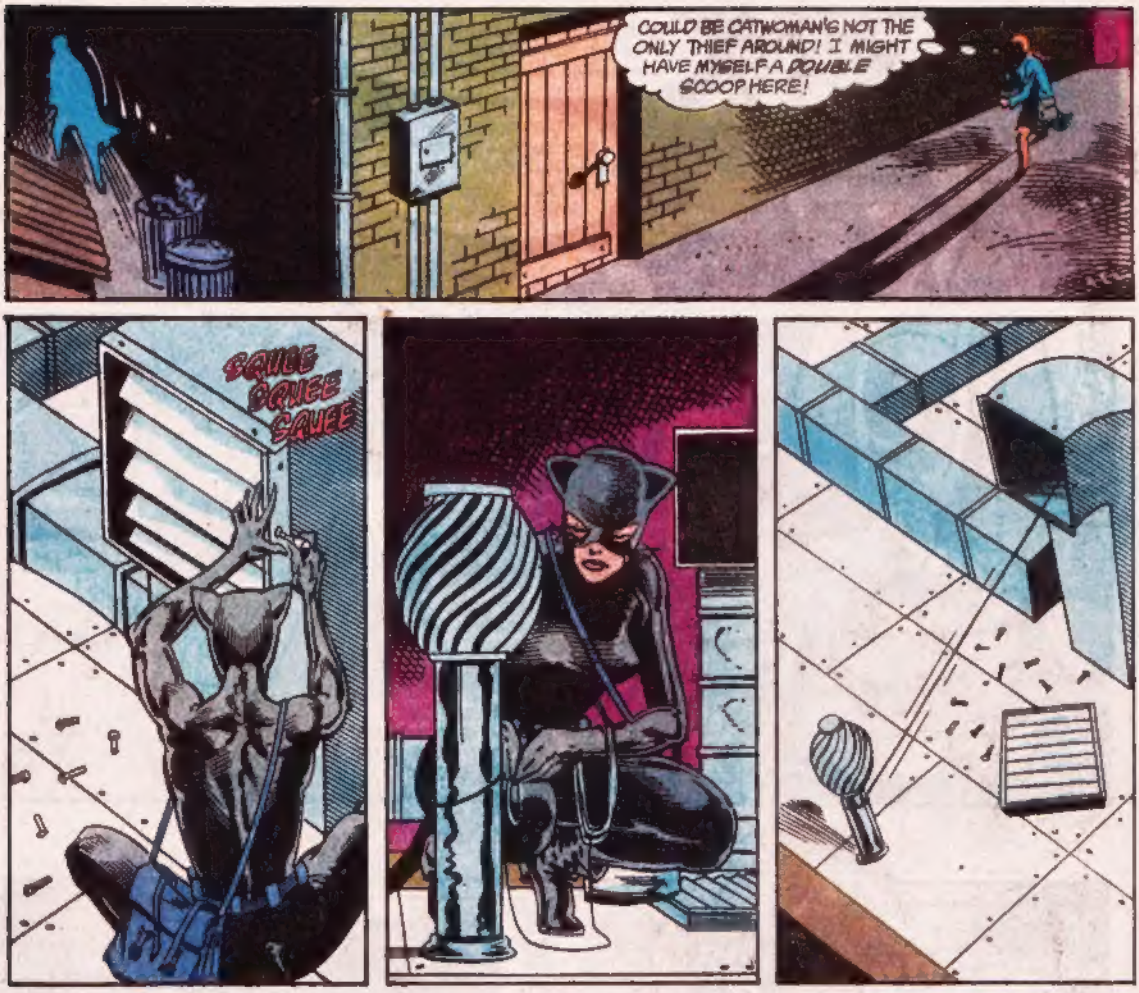
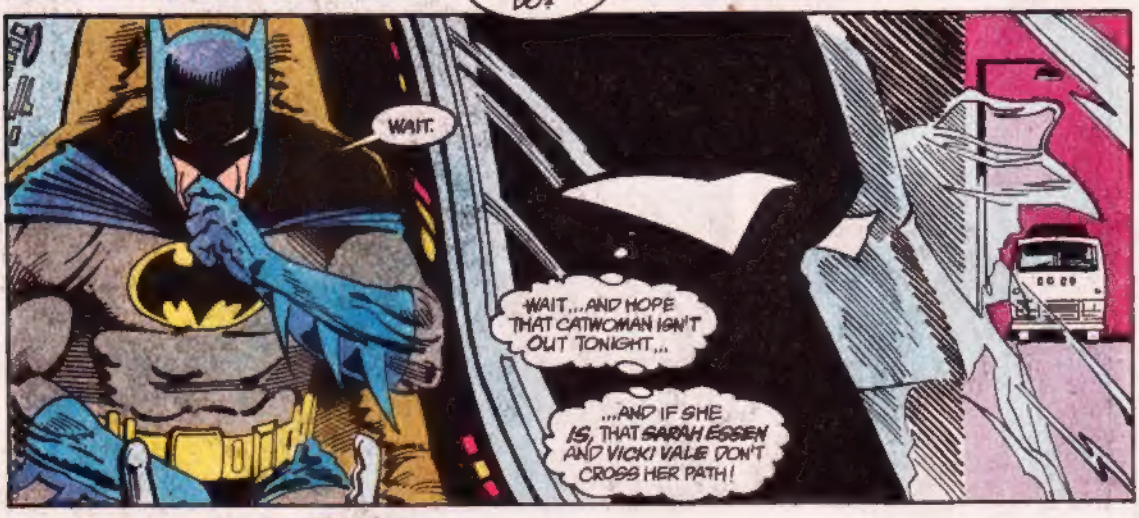
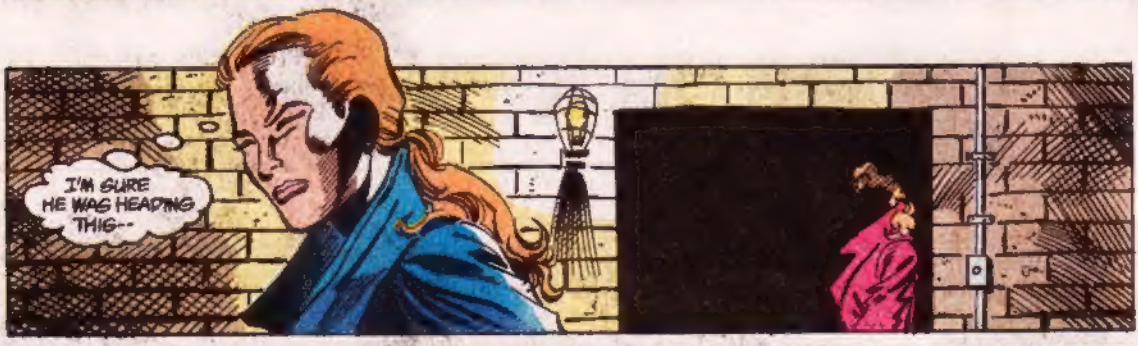

COULD BE CATWOMAN'S NOT THE ONLY THIEF AROUND! I MIGHT HAVE MYSELF A DOUBLE SCOOP HERE!
SQUEE SQUEE SQUEE

SO WHAT'S IT TO BE, PARDNER?
ALL-OUT FRONTAL ATTACK? YOU COULD LOB A FEW GAS PELLETS THROUGH THE WINDOW, GIVE US A BETTER CHANCE OF--
ELLIS AGENCY
FORGET IT, JOE! THERE ARE A DOZEN INNOCENT GIRLS IN THERE.

INNOCENT GIRLS WHO'LL BE INNOCENT SLAVES IN SOME FOREIGN HAREM UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING!
PERHAPS. BUT REMEMBER--WE DON'T HAVE A SCRAP OF PROOF THE ELLIS AGENCY ISN'T WHAT IT CLAIMS.
SO WHAT DO WE DO?


WAIT.
WAIT... AND HOPE THAT CATWOMAN ISN'T OUT TONIGHT...
...AND IF SHE IS, THAT SARAH ESSEN AND VICKI VALE DON'T CROSS HER PATH!

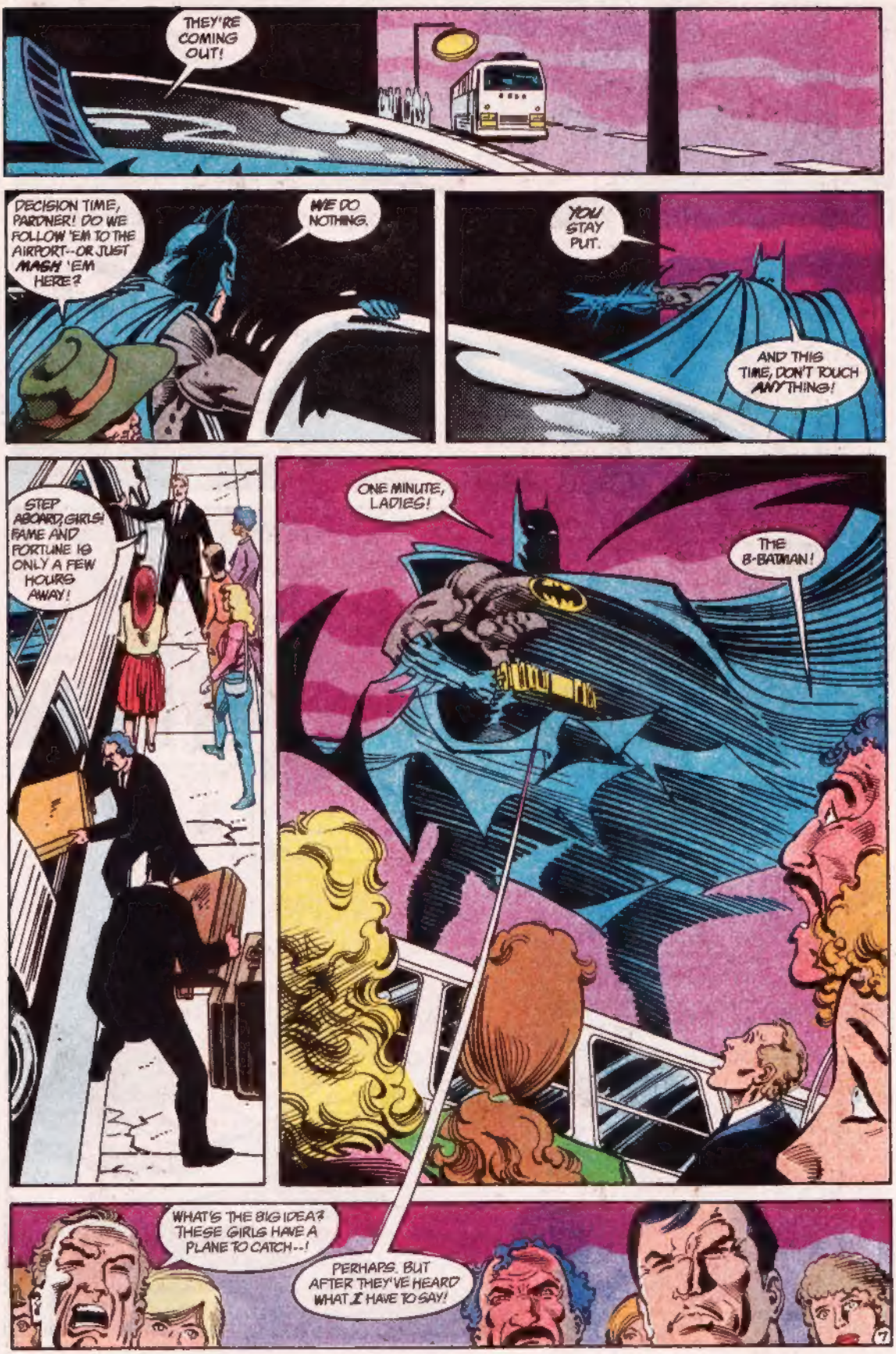

I'M SURE HE WAS HEADING THIS--

FREEZE!
OH!
TURN 'ROUND-- SLOWLY!

YOU!
SERGEANT ESSEN!

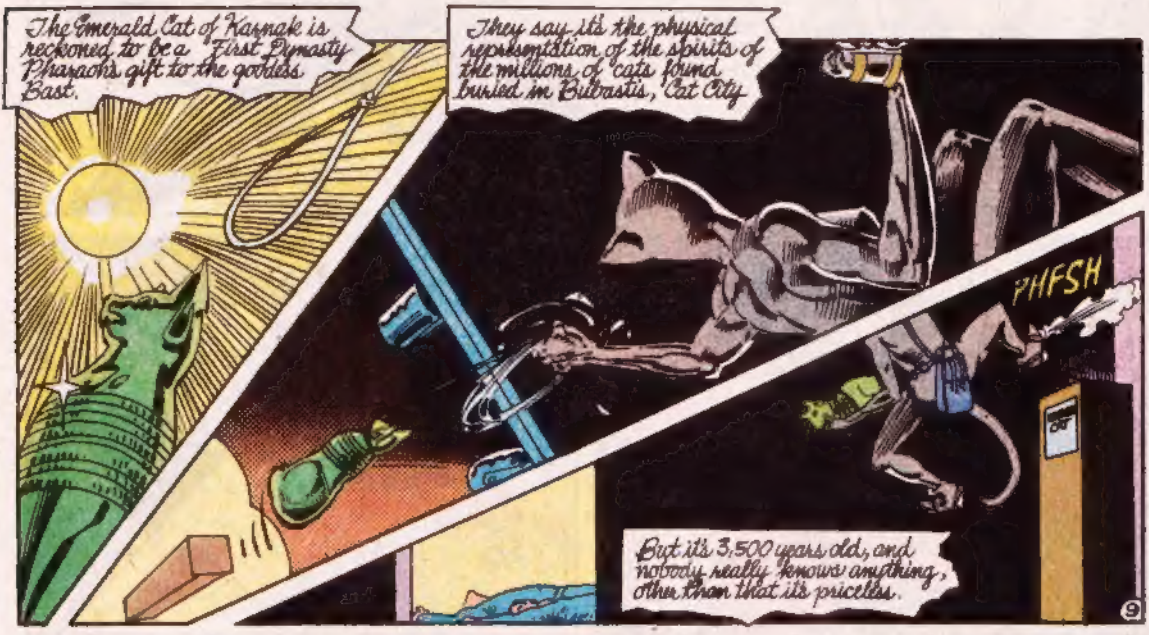
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING HERE? SNOOPING AROUND IN CASE THE CATWOMAN SHOWS...?
UM... I SUPPOSE I SHOULD TELL YOU -- SHE'S ALREADY HERE.
I SAW HER ON THE ROOFTOP OF THE BUILDING NEXT DOOR!
BUT I'VE GOT TWO MEN STATIONED OUT FRONT--!
STAY HERE!
LADY, YOU MUST BE JOKING!
THINK SHE'LL SHOW?
I HOPE NOT. I LIKE MY JOBS NICE AND EASY!
STILL, EVEN IF SHE DOES, IT'LL BE WORTH IT. LONDIS'S BONUS IS A WEEK'S REGULAR PAY!

DON'T SPEND IT ALL IN THE ONE STORE, GUYS!
WHAT TH--?
WHAM
JAKA
CAT
PRESSURE PADS IN THE FLOOR...
NO PROBLEM--
PHSHT
PHFF
--IF I APPLY A LITTLE PRESSURE OF MY OWN!
6


THEY'RE COMING OUT!
DECISION TIME, PARDNER! DO WE FOLLOW 'EM TO THE AIRPORT--OR JUST MASH 'EM HERE?
WE DO NOTHING.
YOU STAY PUT.
AND THIS TIME, DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!
STEP ABOARD, GIRLS! FAME AND FORTUNE IS ONLY A FEW HOURS AWAY!
ONE MINUTE, LADIES!
THE B-BATMAN!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? THESE GIRLS HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH--!
PERHAPS. BUT AFTER THEY'VE HEARD WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

I HAVE NO PROOF--AND IF I'M WORRYING YOU NEEDLESSLY, I APOLOGIZE NOW.
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW--THERE IS SUSPICION THIS DANCE AGENCY IS NOT ALL IT SEEMS. I URGE YOU TO CHECK YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS--AND ON NO ACCOUNT HAND OVER YOUR PASSPORT TO ANYONE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOT ALL IT SEEMS"?
THE AGENCY MADE ALL THE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS--AND THESE TWO HAVE ALREADY COLLECTED OUR PASSPORTS!
JUST A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE, BABE--!
MAYBE--BUT I'LL TAKE MINE BACK TILL I FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
ME, TOO!
NOBODY GETS ANYTHING BACK! BOARD THE BUS!
HARRY--SPIKE! BLOW THAT MEDDLIN' CREEP AWAY!
CHK
SPAK!

IT'S ALL OVER! BEST I CAN DO IS SAVE MYSELF--!
WHAT--?
OW!
GLAD YOU COULD STICK AROUND, FELLA. I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
I--I'M SAYIN' NOTHING! I WANT MY LAWYER!
SURE. RIGHT AFTER I'VE INTRODUCED YOU TO THE PATENTED JOE POTATO PEELER--!


The Emerald Cat of Karnak is reckoned to be a First Dynasty Pharaoh's gift to the goddess Bast.
They say it's the physical representation of the spirits of the millions of cats found buried in Bubastis, Cat City
PHFSH
But it's 3,500 years old, and nobody really knows anything other than that it's priceless.
9

NICELY DONE, MY DEAR--
PHUK
--I KNEW YOU COULDN'T RESIST THE CHALLENGE!
A TRAP--!
DAMN!
GRRRR
STAY STILL! NO TRICKS!
SPAK!
BLAM!
FOLLOW ME THIS TIME AND I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED FOR HINDRANCE!

WHAT THE HECK! I'VE GOT A GOOD LAWYER!
JOE! DON'T--!
GIVE ME THAT!
HEY! WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?
MRS POTATO'S BOY PLAYS STRICTLY BY THE RECIPE BOOK!
RUBBER!
YOU DIRTY ROTTEN--!
AH, SHUT UP!
HE TALKED. I WAS RIGHT. THOSE GIRLS WERE GOING STRAIGHT TO A THAI BROTHEL! AND GET THIS --
THE GOTHAM CONTACT MAN IS A CERTAIN LEO LONDIS!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT? SHOULD BE A NICE LITTLE REWARD SOME WHERE IN THIS FOR ME!
RIGHT, BATMAN?

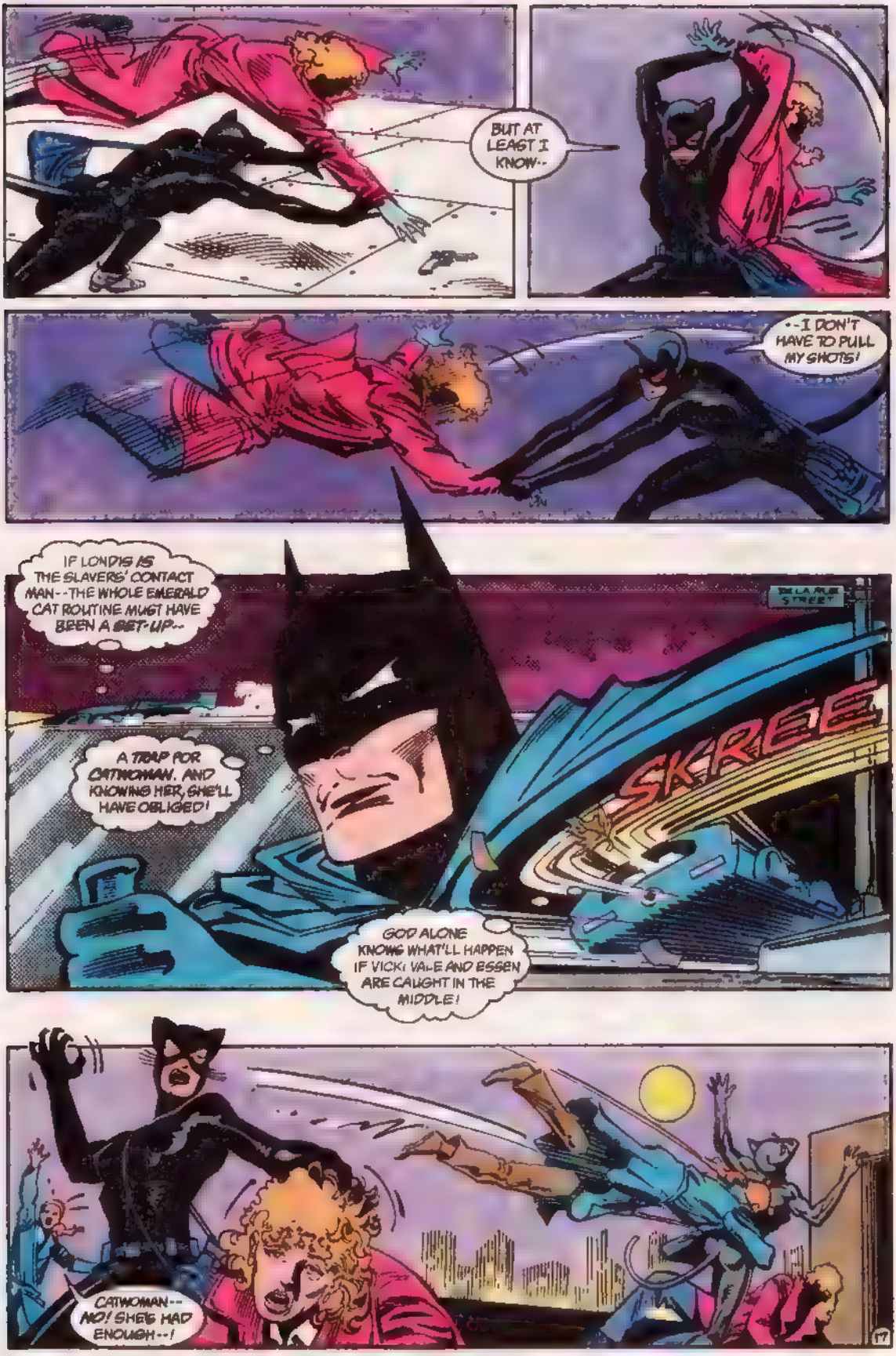
HEY, WHERE'D HE GO...?
VRRRMMMM
WHAT THE HELL'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
YOU'VE BEEN PURCHASED, MY DEAR. A...CLIENT OF MINE IS A GREAT ADMIRER OF YOURS. IN FACT, HE WANTS TO MARRY YOU
MARRY ME? YOU'RE CRAZY!
YOU DISAPPEAR--AS DOES THE CAT--AND WE CLAIM THE INSURANCE MONEY, TOO!
NOT AT ALL. HE'S PAYING RATHER A LARGE SUM FOR THE PRIVILEGE! AND I COULDN'T HAVE WORKED OUT BETTER.
CHAN--TAKE IT!
WAK!
SURE, CHAN--TAKE IT!

HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY, FOOL -AAAH!
SVIIIIP
LOCKED!
HELL! ALL OF GOTHAM'S TURNING OUT FOR THIS!
WAY TOO SLOW, CUDDLES!
SHE CAN'T GET OUT THAT WAY! AFTER HER, KANO!

LOCKED! ALGO!
Of all animals, cats most hate to be restrained.
Something happens to them. Every fiber of their being— every ounce of their strength—
—is concentrated in an insane savagery—
GRRRRRRRAAAAAAAAARRR

Small wonder Liberty always had a cat at her feet!
RRR
FRATCH
YAAA!
AAHH!
OHH... THAT HURT!
BUT I CAN BE LONG GONE BEFORE LONDIS--

STAY VERY STILL!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
ROOF!
VALE! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU--
SWAK!
OHH--!
YANK
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR--
OOOF!
--THIS, LADY!


BUT AT LEAST I KNOW--
--I DON'T HAVE TO PULL MY SHOTS!
IF LONDIS IS THE SLAVERS' CONTACT MAN--THE WHOLE EMERALD CAT ROUTINE MUST HAVE BEEN A SET-UP--
A TRAP FOR CATWOMAN. AND KNOWING HER, SHE'LL HAVE OBLIGED!
SKREE
GOD ALONE KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF VICKI VALE AND ESSEN ARE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
CATWOMAN--NO! SHE'S HAD ENOUGH--!
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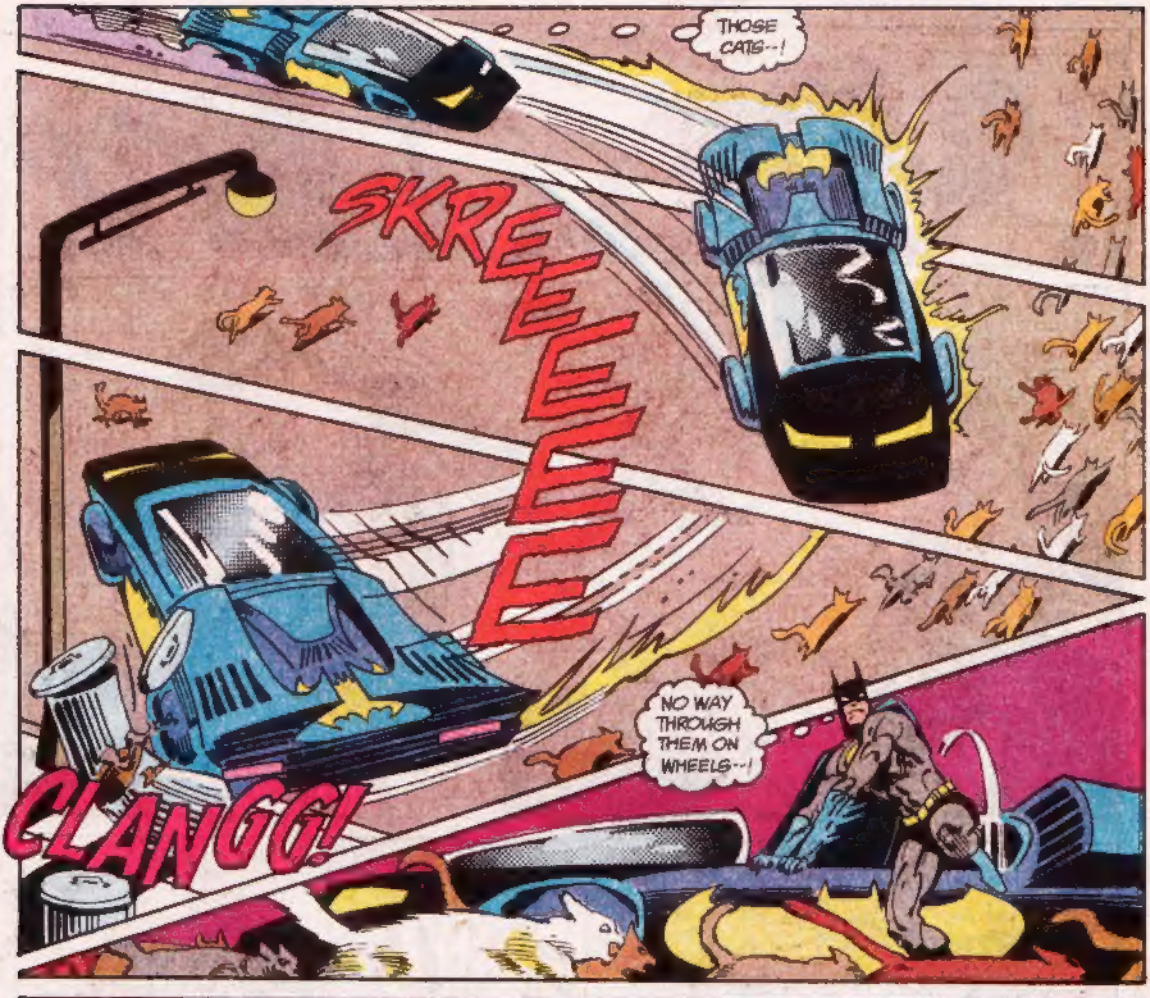
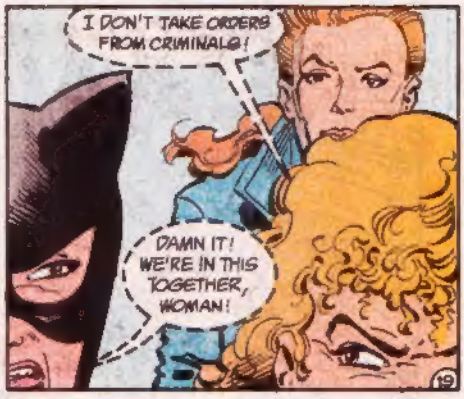
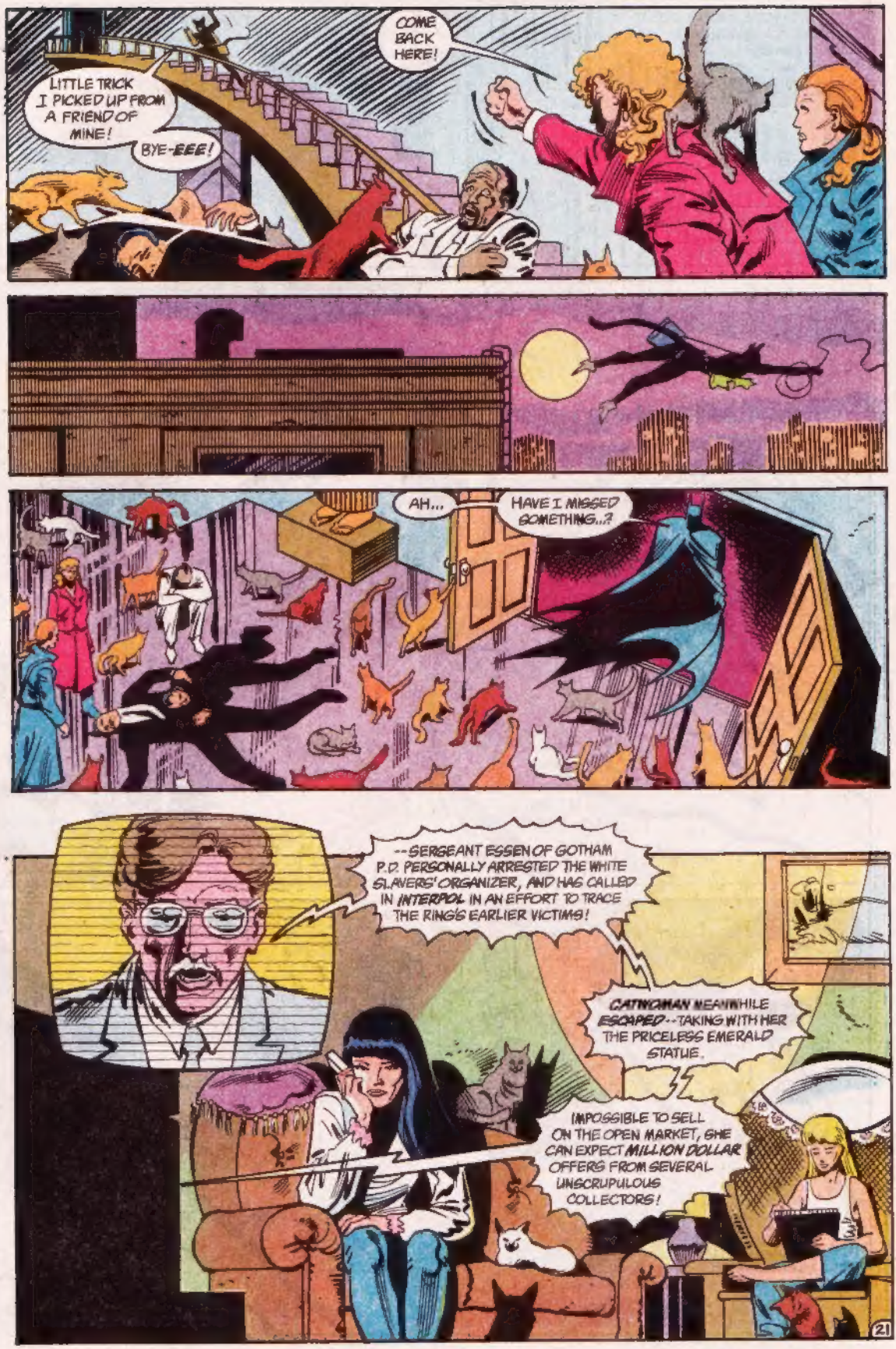
WELL, WELL, WELL!
THERE IS A SAYING IN MY COUNTRY THAT WOMEN ARE LIKE CATS--
PUT MORE THAN TWO TOGETHER, AND THEY ARE SURE TO START A FIGHT!
SERGEANT ESSEN -- MISS VALE AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE TO SEE YOU!
DOWNSTAIRS, PLEASE.
YOU'RE THREATENING A COP, LONDIS. I'LL SEE YOU DO TIME FOR THIS!
SERGEANT, WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU WON'T BE GIVING ANY ORDERS!
WE TAKE THEM WITH US! NOW HURRY - THE COACH WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!
I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT WITH THIS...!
TEK
WANTED
FOR HATEFUL BIGOTRY
POST NO BILLS
13

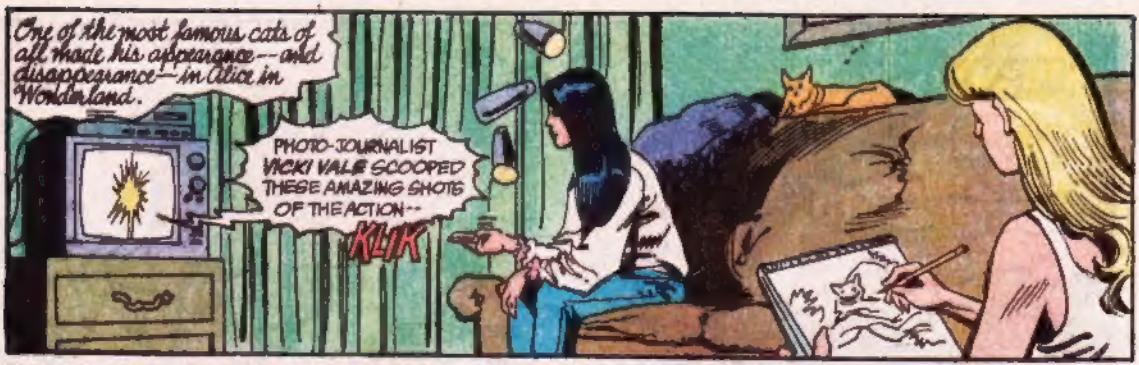

THOSE CATS--!
SKREEEEEE
NO WAY THROUGH THEM ON WHEELS--!
CLANGG!

IS THERE A FLASH ON THAT THING?
Y-YES.
GET READY, EGGEN--

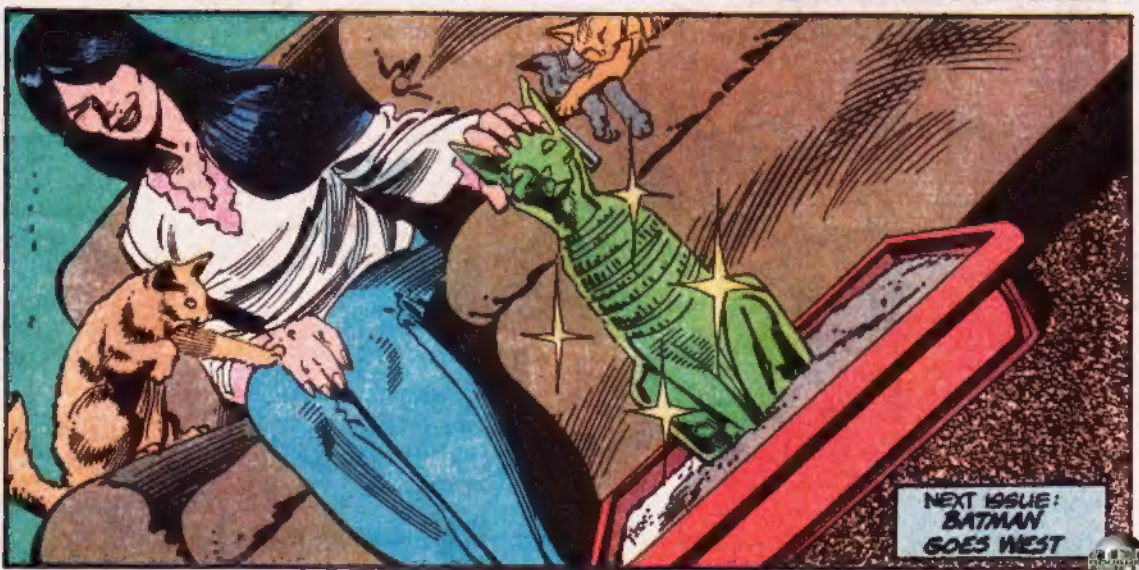

I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM CRIMINALS!
DAMN IT! WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, WOMAN!

HIT IT NOW, VALE!
FLASH
MY EYES--!
OUFF!
PAK!
AAAGH!
SLASH
THANK YOU!
SPOP
OUT OF MY WAY!
JNGLE
WHAT THE HELL--?
AAAAH!
REEOW
RAIOW
ROW
HST
RRR
PHHT


LITTLE TRICK I PICKED UP FROM A FRIEND OF MINE!
BYE-EEE!
COME BACK HERE!
AH...
HAVE I MISSED SOMETHING..?
--SERGEANT ESSEN OF GOTHAM P.D. PERSONALLY ARRESTED THE WHITE SLAVERS' ORGANIZER, AND HAS CALLED IN INTERPOL IN AN EFFORT TO TRACE THE RING'S EARLIER VICTIMS!
CATWOMAN MEANWHILE ESCAPED--TAKING WITH HER THE PRICELESS EMERALD STATUE.
IMPOSSIBLE TO SELL ON THE OPEN MARKET, SHE CAN EXPECT MILLION DOLLAR OFFERS FROM SEVERAL UNSCRUPULOUS COLLECTORS!


One of the most famous cats of all made his appearance—and disappearance—in Alice in Wonderland.
PHOTO-JOURNALIST VICKI VALE SCOOPED THESE AMAZING SHOTS OF THE ACTION--
KLIK

The Cheshire Cat...
For a lot of people, that smile says all there is to say about cats!


NEXT ISSUE:
BATMAN GOES WEST